

Message from Assistant Chief A. Carbajal August 10th, 2012

Dear Tempe Police Employees,

That time of year is once again upon us....Shift Change. It's that time of year where we have the opportunity to start anew with new squad members, a new supervisor, new work hours and perhaps a new view of the city. Shift change has an interesting effect on many of us in that it provides us with a chance for a fresh start. It's an opportunity to refocus on the most important elements of our job (fighting crime and providing the best law enforcement possible to our community) and it is also a time that hopefully recharges us a little. Let's make this new schedule year, a great one!

Angels on Patrol

Recently, we agreed to be a part of an exciting new program that is specifically designed to help change and improve the public's perception of police officers while at the same time providing officers with an opportunity to help residents of our community who are truly in need. The program is called Angels on Patrol and was founded in 2003 by now Lieutenant Jacqui MacConnell from the Phoenix Police Department. Tempe is the first agency outside of Phoenix to join this program. The idea for Angels on Patrol came to Lt. MacConnell after her squad rescued five year old twins and their eight year old brother. The twins had been caged for their entire lives and their brother shared their room. The three boys have since been adopted by their foster family and they are thriving. Lt. MacConnell has stayed involved in the boys lives and knows the challenges the family has faced throughout the years. Angels on Patrol was created to help officers help families.

The way the program works is very simple. When an officer comes across a crisis situation involving children and/or a family who they feel could use additional assistance, the officer can fill out a Family Application Form and submit it directly to Angels on Patrol. A board member will conduct follow-up with the officer and with the children/family in need. The board will decide whether to approve the request and to what extent. In many cases, this process is completed in less than a week. Assistance can range from buying groceries for the family, to buying clothes and school supplies for a child, to paying a family's rent for a specific time period. No cash will be awarded. Once an application has been approved, the officer can have as much involvement as they feel comfortable with. This is a great way to make a significant impact for some of the most financially challenged members of our community! In words of Lt. MacConnell, "It's a game changer".

The application process is very easy and can be completed online at www.AngelsonPatrol.com. It's also a great resource for our SROs. CARE 7 can also initiate an application.

Adopt-A-School

With the start of the new school year, I am proud to announce that we are reviving the Adopt-A-School Program within the Patrol Division! This was a very successful program that lasted for several years, but ended after our department experienced some budget reductions which forced the reprioritization of resources. The program has been redesigned to cover as many elementary schools as possible while minimizing the impact on patrol operations.

The response to this program has been overwhelming with over 20 officers expressing interest. So far, we have officers assigned to 13 schools in the Tempe Elementary School District and 5 schools in the Kyrene School District. The response was so great, that 4 schools have 2 officers assigned. The officers who have been assigned to a school are being asked to:

- Visit their assigned elementary school at least once a week (15-30 minutes)
- Log their visit so they can get credit for participation in the program
- Familiarize themselves with the school location, classrooms and any additional building(s)
- Introduce themselves to the school principal, school nurse, security officers, etc.
- When reasonable, make themselves accessible to the students in lunch rooms, during recess or at the bus stop

It is important to note that this is not intended to be an SRO Program. School staff will be instructed to report incidents/crimes at the school as they currently do. My thanks to all of the officers who volunteered to participate in this program and to Crime Prevention Officers Sue Schoville and Dan Brown for their work in pulling it all together. I am confident that the program will be very rewarding for both the children in our schools and our Adopt-A-School Officers!

As you can see, there are some great things coming our way! Thank you for your hard work and dedication!

Please stay safe, Angel